

AGENDA ITEM V A 1

PROGRESS REPORT ON CONDITIONALLY APPROVED PROGRAM

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY-NEW ORLEANS

B.A. IN ENGLISH

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The B.A. in English program at Southern University-New Orleans was terminated by the Board of Regents in January 2006 as part of the reorganization plan for the University after the destruction caused to the institution by Hurricane Katrina. At that time, the program was also a consistent “low-completer” degree.

In May, 2008, the Regents agreed to a request from the University to reinstitute this program, under certain conditions. Specifically, the Regents acted as follows:

Conditional approval is granted for the proposed B.A. program in English (CIP Code 23.0101) at Southern University-New Orleans. The University shall annually address fulfillment of program stipulations as outlined in the Staff Analysis beginning with a progress report to the Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs, due August 1, 2008. Depending upon the contents of this report, the Committee will consider program implementation at its August, 2008 meeting.

Staff issues which remained to be addressed prior to implementation were as follows:

- 1. Faculty – The University shall hire two, new, FT, doctoral-level English faculty prior to program implementation. Further, the University shall develop a clear plan for further English faculty augmentation to ensure a total number of nine such filled positions by Fall, 2010. The University shall also reassess the need for support personnel to assist faculty/students in the program.**
- 2. Students – The University shall annually report numbers of students enrolled as majors, number of graduates, and placement of these graduates. The University shall be held fully responsible for meeting student numbers projections.**
- 3. Library/Facilities/Equipment – The University shall annually report necessary library/equipment/facility acquisitions and improvements as envisioned in the proposal. The University shall be held fully responsible for adequately addressing resource needs in these areas.**

4. Budget – The University shall annually report on the status of funding for this program, including the submission of budgets as directed. The University shall be held fully responsible for adequately addressing financial needs of this program.

SUNO submitted its first response on July 31st. The staff sent a memo identifying unresolved areas on August 1st. SUNO submitted a subsequent response on August 7th.

STAFF ANALYSIS

1. Adequate Numbers of Faculty/ Faculty Growth Plan

The University reports:

In order to bring the full-time English faculty to the initial strength anticipated for the implementation of the new English program, approval was granted for two additional positions in English in early Spring 2008. The positions were announced in The Chronicles of Higher Education, “until filled”. Expertise in Creative Writing and African American Literature were the fields of focus. A seven-member Departmental Search Committee was formed. From mid-March through mid-April the committee reviewed some twenty-four applications, and interviewed four short listed applicants. The positions were offered (in turn) to three of these candidates with Ph.D. degree, but all declined the offer for various reasons. At the end of the Spring semester the positions remained vacant. The positions were re-advertised in June. The Search Committee completed the screening of applications and interviews in end-July and submitted the names of four short-listed candidates to the higher administration.

*The two candidates with the highest evaluations scores have been offered tenure-track, Assistant Professor of English positions and each one has accepted the offer. The two new members of the English faculty are, **Dr. Raj Chandlarpaty** and **Dr. Jerry Giddens**. They will be on board when Fall semester officially commences on August 18, 2008. The curriculum vitae of each of the two new faculty are attached as **Appendix I** and **Appendix II**. Fall semester starts formally on August 18, 2008. (These documents are on file in the Office of Academic Affairs.)*

The addition of the two new English faculty brings the total number of English faculty to six (6) in Fall 2008. Our goal is to hire one additional English faculty member by Fall 2009, and one additional faculty by Fall 2010, bringing the total FTE faculty positions to eight (8). This represents a revised, realistic, figure that is anticipated to be adequate for manning the program until Year V. It replaces the nine (9) English faculty members projected in the original English proposal that was submitted to the Board of Regents. We will appreciate if Board of Regents will accept the more realistic projection we have stated in this revised document. We will seek specialists in Creative Writing and African American literature for the remaining two positions.

2. Support Personnel

The University reports:

*Since the area of English is housed under the Department of Arts and Humanities, support personnel for English include an **administrative secretary III**, who works for the department as a whole. In addition, there is one undergraduate student worker who assists the secretary for twenty hours during the week.*

*Provision is made in the budget to hire a **full-time secretary** for the English program with effect from Fall 2010. It is also projected herein that the creation of a separate department of English is a long-term goal, contingent on the successful retention and matriculation of approximately eight to ten majors a year from Year IV. The salaries of the support personnel reflect a 5% annual increase.*

*The English program also receives the support of the Writing and Reading Lab on Southern University campus. This English tutorial/resource center has a **reading and writing specialist** and hires student tutors to assist student majors to enhance their reading and writing skills. The Writing and Reading Lab expenses are financed by separate Title III funding.*

3. Student Numbers

The University reports:

All of the currently-enrolled General Studies students who had expressed an interest in an English major have been approached through written and oral communication to be informed of the conditionally approved English degree program, effective Fall, 2008. To date, seven (7) of the students contacted have already met with an English faculty member and expressed the firm intent to transfer to English as their major in Fall, 2008. These students have been advised on the course credit requirements for the B.A. degree in English. These transfers to the new English program have been placed on hold, pending the final approval by Board of Regents. Furthermore, the General Studies program, with a large pool of students currently has twelve (12) students with a concentration in English and five (5) with a minor in English. The new English program will be tapping these resources for future recruitment, as well as recruit new majors from the general education English classes offered on campus.

It should be further noted that open registration for Fall 2008 semester will not begin until August 20, 2008. At this stage, more students will become aware of the reinstatement of the English program. It is anticipated that the final enrollment in the English program in Fall 2008 could be anywhere from 10 to 15 students or higher.

3. Library Resources

The University reports:

The Leonard S. Washington Library reports English resources of 821 books, 24,000 e-books/e-journals via net library, 7 databases available for research with 30,000 plus full text articles. The library has also recently begun acquiring items in DVD format and has about 20 on the subject of History and 5 for English. It anticipates spending a minimum of \$5000 this fiscal year ordering items to support the collection specifically in this subject area beyond the already allotted budget. In addition, the library has requested funding to hire a faculty liaison librarian. This person would work closely with faculty to identify/ purchase new resources for the students and faculty in the library.

4. SACS Reaccreditation

The University reports:

It is important to state that SUNO is currently preparing for SACS reaffirmation of accreditation; the visit is in 2011. All programs, such as English, History, Mathematics, Psychology, Sociology, Biology, etc, which do not have mandatory accrediting agencies must undergo a periodic program review or self-evaluation between Fall 2008 and Fall 2010. External reviewers will review program portfolios and pay site visits in each case. The exercise will enable the university to keep the English and other programs in the same category in top quality in terms of requirements for faculty, library, facility, and other resources.

5. Budget

The University provided the following budget:

COSTS	FIRST YEAR		SECOND YEAR		THIRD YEAR		FOURTH YEAR		FIFTH YEAR	
Description	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE
	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
Faculty	\$		\$		\$		\$		\$	
Salaries	252,044	6	276,368	7	316,374	8	316,374	8	316,374	8
Fringe	88,215		82,727		96,729		110,731		124,733	
Travel*	10,000		11,000		12,500		12,500		12,500	
Office Supplies**	12,000		14,000		15,500		16,000		17,000	
Library Resources	5000		5000		6000		6000		7000	
Support Personnel***	21,965	1	22,844	1	47,640	2	50,022	2	52,523	2
Equipment	5,000		5,000		10,000		10,000		15,000	
GRAND TOTAL	394,224		416,939		504,743		521,627		545,130	

REVENUE										
Total Anticipated From:	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%
State Appropriations	394,224	100	390,000	93	450,000	93.5	475,000	92	500,000	92
Federal Grants	0		0		0		0		0	
State Grants	0		26,939		30,923		40,401		42,607	
TOTAL	394,224		416,939		504,743		521,627		545,130	

**Travel funds will be available from the \$100,000 available for faculty development and Title III.*

***The College of Arts and Sciences has a comprehensive budget for supplies for all departments under its aegis. Money is allocated for supplies by the College on the requests made by individual departments for their respective programs. The projections are based on expected needs as the English program develops.*

****Support personnel include the salary of administrative assistant III. A Full-time Secretary will be hired from Fall 2010, on salary range \$18,000 to \$22,000 per year.*

STAFF SUMMARY

The University has responded appropriately to staff concerns; ergo, the program merits implementation beginning Fall, 2008. It is imperative that the University continue annual reporting of essential data until it becomes clear that the program has fully evolved academically and is appropriately populated.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee hereby authorize implementation of the B.A. program in English (CIP Code 23.0101) at Southern University-New Orleans, effective Fall, 2008. Beginning September 1, 2009, and annually on that date until otherwise directed, the University shall report to the Associate Commissioner of Academic Affairs the following data:

- 1. Numbers of program enrollees and completers;*
- 2. Placement of program graduates;*
- 3. Faculty and support personnel numbers; and*
- 4. Annual program budget.*